

February Newsletter 2010

SAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST SCHOOL - HYDES

Dear Parents,



Now more than ever, Catholic Schools Week is a time to celebrate the enduring value of Catholic education. Each year at this time, we focus on the gift that Catholic education provides to America's young people and its contributions to our church, our communities and our nation. A big thank you goes out to all those who contribute to the success of our schools - students, families, faculty, staff, volunteers, community supporters and local, state, and national leaders. Help spread the good news about Catholic Schools!

Farewell to Father Willie:

As you know by now, Father Willie has been asked to accept the Pastorship at Our Lady Of Hope in Dundalk. His last day with us will be Sunday, February 14, 2010. The Parish celebration of his service begins with 11:15 AM Mass on Sunday, February 14, followed by a reception in the hall. We feel it is important for the students and faculty of our school to have our own celebration of service. Therefore, on the afternoon of Thursday, February 11, the children will participate in a Farewell to Father Willie. We will begin with a short prayer service at 1:00 PM in the church followed by cake and juice reception in the church hall. The children have prepared a special song to sing in Father Willie's honor and small tokens of appreciation will be given from the faculty and students. Parents are also invited to attend. Please let us know if you will be with us so we can prepare adequately.

Re-registration:

The requested response time has passed for re-registration of current students. If you have not replied to our request, please call the office as soon as possible. In addition, if you have a child who will be attending Saint John School for the first time in the fall and have not registered him/her, please do so as soon as possible. Likewise, if your child/children will not be returning to Saint John School, please notify the office. These numbers are important to us as they help in the formulation of the school budget and tuition rates for the next school year.

Tuition Assistance:

Please call the school office if you would like to receive a packet containing information and an application for tuition assistance.

Uniforms and Appearance:

Just a reminder that in addition to the uniform requirements listed in the Handbook, we periodically need to remind the students of the appearance of their uniform. For example, the length of the girls skirts, especially in the middle school, should be at or just above the knee, not several inches above the knee. We do know that occasionally tights develop holes because of an accident on the playground, etc., but they should not be worn over and over again with the holes. When students wear the white socks for gym days, they should be the traditional white crew sock and not the to-the-ankle sports socks. Once again, I must remind

everyone that make-up should not be worn to school and that includes colored nail polish. One last reminder concerns hair length for boys. Please make sure your son gets a periodic haircut that leaves his eyebrows and ears uncovered and is not long at the neck! We would appreciate your help, so that all students are in compliance.

Extended Care:

Re-registration is now in process for Extended Care for the 2010-2011 school year. In March, registration will be open to those on the waiting list and those who feel they will have the need for care during the next school year. Please pick up a registration form from the office or from Mrs. Zaiko.

STAND Training:

If you have never been STAND certified, you must complete an application and consent form, as well as attend a video presentation. In lieu of the video presentation, volunteers who want to be certified must still complete the necessary forms, but may use the online training.

The course online takes about 1.5 to 2 hours to complete. Upon successful completion of the course, the participant will be able to print a certificate of completion. The participant will be asked to enter his/her name as well as the name of his/her parish or school. This step must be completed in order to receive credit for the course. The screening coordinator (Jean Delcher) must sign and date the certificate of completion when the form is turned in to the school.

A username and password are required to access the online training. In order to access the online training, please do the following:

1. Go to STAND training on the Archdiocese of Baltimore Child and Youth Protection website: <http://www.archbalt.org/STAND/training.cfm>.
2. The username is **stjohntheevangelisthydes**. The password is **archbalt**.
3. Click on the link to begin training.
4. Follow the directions on the online training website.

Remember, if you have already completed the STAND video training, you do not need to do the online training.

"I Read to the Principal:"

Congratulations to the newest members of the club: Olivia Banashak , Dominic Cuomo, Alyssa Edwards, Payton Madore, and Haley Wehberg. I always enjoy having students share their books with me. Special thanks to Haley for the mini muffins to enjoy as she read her book, *If You Feed a Moose a Muffin!*

Applause, Applause:

What a tremendous outreach the children of Saint John School had for the victims of the Haiti earthquake! Students were asked to earn money or give money from their savings to help the people of Haiti. Grade three students made posters that were displayed throughout the school to remind students to bring in the donations. I know that everyone heeded the call, for in counting the collection, we came across at least 8 "Chuckie Cheese" quarters, a couple of Canadian coins, some angel coins, and a battery! I am so proud of our students. Their collection amounted to \$1,145.00! Our check, along with the parish collection, will be sent to

the Catholic Relief Services. What a great lesson for the children and what a great feeling they have for doing something to help others!

Student Council News:

Valentine mailroom orders should be returned to school by Monday, February 8. A large Valentine card with a large lollipop is still only \$1.00. The medium size Valentine card with a heart lollipop is \$0.50. A chocolate bar is \$1.00. Valentines will be delivered to PK 3 on Thursday, February 11. All other Valentines will be delivered to the classrooms on Friday, February 12. Additional order forms may be obtained in Room 8.

Look for Daffodil Days order forms coming in February.

Social Action Club:

The SAC decorated bags and wrote letters of encouragement and caring for Aids patients at Gift of Hope in Baltimore City. This is an outreach project of Saint John Parish.

For the month of February, we will conduct the "Pennies for Patients" campaign (February 1 through 19) in which we will collect pennies to donate to the Leukemia/Lymphoma Society in Gabby LoPresti's name. Each classroom will have a box in which to collect their pennies, and the children will be bringing home individual boxes, as well.

At our February 10th meeting, we will again decorate lunch bags for the Saint John Parish lunch outreach.

On February 24, the SAC will lead the school in celebrating Gabby and the Leukemia/Lymphoma Society by participating in "Hats On Day." More details will follow about this activity.

Drama Club:

Rehearsals have picked up full speed ahead. We are now rehearsing on Mondays and Thursdays until 4:30 PM in the Church Hall. On February 1, we will begin staying until 5:30 PM on Mondays and Thursdays. We have just begun working on our set and welcome any parents who would like to get involved with painting the scenery to email us at igardner@stjohnhydes.org or mdonohue@stjohnhydes.org. Thank you for all of your support. The play will be held on March 12 at 1:00 PM for the school and 7:00 PM for friends and family. We will again have our dinner theater on Saturday, March 13, following the 5:00 PM Mass. Please plan to join us. Reservations will be required for the Saturday show.

H.A.S.A.

Mardi Gras News

The Mardi Gras Gala is approaching fast. Procrastination seems to be the norm for most of us! Some have purchased their tickets, but if you have not, a Mardi Gras ticket sale table will be set up during the February 3rd Open House for parents. The event is March 6. Attendance is a great way to support your school, meet new parents, and just plain have fun! Time is running out to get your tickets. We must give Towson Country Club a final count.

Have a good month!

Jean Delcher



Parents make the difference!

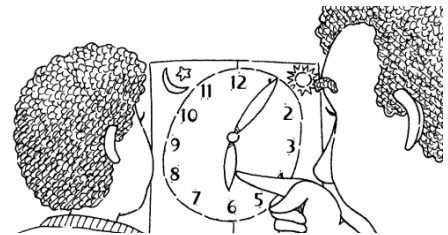
Early Childhood – February 2010

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Teach your child how to tell time by starting with basics

Of course you want your child to be able to tell time. But he must first understand what time is before he can meaningfully look at a clock and inform you that it's 7:43.

Here are some guidelines for going through the process of telling time with your young child:



1. Begin by talking about the day. Before telling time, your child should understand that today is now, yesterday is what happened until he went to sleep last night, and tomorrow is what it will be after he finishes the next sleep. Say, "Yesterday you went to school. Today we are at home. Tomorrow, after you get out of bed, we'll go to Grandma's."
2. Move on to broader times of day. Morning is the time between waking up and lunch. Afternoon is between lunch and dinner. Evening is dinner and bath. Night is when it's dark. Discussing times of day in these terms will help your child understand them.
3. Use before and after. Say, "Before you brushed your teeth this morning, you ate breakfast. After you got dressed, we went shopping."
4. Introduce the clock when your child is comfortable with the above concepts. Start with teaching your child the names of the hour hand (short hand) and minute hand (long hand). When he knows these, teach him times on the hour only for now. "See how the minute hand is on the 12, and the hour hand is on the 1? That means it's one o'clock."

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Expanding Your Child's World

Consider your child's ability before trying new activities

By February, you and your child may feel a bit housebound. A new outside activity may be just what you need. Not only will it get you out of the house, it can stimulate your preschooler's learning, too. Just remember the old saying: "Look before you leap."

Be sure to consider:

- Ability. Can your child lift a bowling ball? Can she make it through a hike? Avoid activities that may be beyond your child's developmental ability.
- Temperament. Veteran parents advise caution at the movies. Even some "G" rated films may leave your child in tears. Your active child may love the ice rink. But a quiet child may be happier with a quick visit to a museum.
- Cost. Even if you can afford them, expensive activities for young children may end in frustration. Attention spans and behavior vary widely at this age. Many parents report having to leave places before they "got their money's worth." So, check your local paper or a community website for free or low-cost activities for families.

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Building Character

Teach your child the importance of trying to 'do the right thing'

As toddlers and preschoolers, children behave to earn parents' approval and to avoid a negative consequence. As they get older, they slowly learn good behavior for its own sake--simply because it's the right thing to do.

There are many ways parents can help preschoolers develop good character and the desire to do what's right. Here are a few guidelines for seeing your preschooler on this lifelong path:

- Give your child unconditional love. Children who are secure in their parents' love almost always behave better than those who are not. The reason is quite simple--these children grow to see that this is how everyone should be treated.
- Be a role model. Your child is watching you all the time. If he overhears you telling lies, he will, too. If you always tell the truth, chances are, he will, too.
- Correct your child for disrespect. "In our family, we use kind words." And here's the "model" concept again--use those same kind words when you talk to your child and other family members.
- Cue your child to think of others. Example: Someone in the family sneezes and the tissue box is on the counter. Say to your child, "Look on the counter. Do you see something there that Katie needs?" Praise your child for following through.

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Help your kindergartner learn how to listen & speak in turn

Listening to others and waiting your turn to speak are essential skills for school. Children could never learn if 25 students were always talking at once!



If polite talking and listening skills happen at home, your child will be more likely to use them at school, too. Practice these skills:

- At meals. You have probably heard about the importance of family meals. One reason is that they are a time for children to learn talking and listening. Give each family member a chance to tell something about her day. Do not allow others to speak while someone else is talking.
- At story time. You know it's important to read with your child. It encourages her to learn to read. But it also teaches her to listen and pay attention to another voice. Ask questions about the story. "Tell me something you really liked about the story."
- At play. Games such as "Simon Says" have been around forever because they are fun and they teach listening. Board games also encourage talking and listening.

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**Click here to view the
February EC Activity Calendar**

Parents make the difference!

Elementary School - February 2010

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Experts say paying for grades is not an effective motivator

You're worried about your child's math grades. Then she makes a suggestion. "I would do better if you paid me for every A on a math test," she says.



Should you get out your wallet? No, say most experts on motivation. Here's why paying children for good grades is not an effective motivator:

- It puts the emphasis in the wrong place. If you promise your child \$1 for a good grade, she'll be working for the money. She may find that she wants the dollar so badly that she's willing to cheat to get it.
- It doesn't help your child learn the satisfaction of doing a job well. Children need to learn the joy that comes just from doing something to the best of their ability. There's a lot of pleasure that comes from walking into a newly-cleaned room. There's great pride in handing in a paper that was the best your child could do. Those are the rewards your child ought to be working for.
- It puts all the focus on the outcome. Children need to learn the importance of sticking with a challenging subject. They need to learn that practice really does make perfect. Putting all your attention on a reward at the end of the process will make it harder for your child to learn those lessons.

So what should you do? Let your child know that school is important. Set aside time and space for her to do homework. Celebrate her successes with time spent together. And keep your money in your pocket!

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Building Respect

Teach your child to respect other people's property, belongings

A classmate brought a really neat toy car to school. Your child really wanted a car like that. So he "borrowed" it.

Helping children learn to respect another person's property is an important skill for getting along with others. Talk with your child about a time when someone did not respect his property. Did they take something without asking? Did they borrow it and not return it? Did they break something while they were using it?

Talk with your child about how he felt when that happened. Then talk with your child about how he can show respect for another person's property.

Here are some ideas:

- Always ask permission before using something that belongs to someone else.
- Be careful when using something that belongs to another person.
- Return things when you said you would.

Talk about how these same rules apply to things at school. Your child should take care of his math book so he can return it in good condition.

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Solving School Problems

Face family-school challenges with confidence, common sense

Throughout your child's education, you may disagree with school staff about minor--and occasionally serious--issues. Although this can feel pretty uncomfortable, remember that conflicts are a natural part of relationships. What's important is how they're resolved. When serious issues need to be discussed:

- Listen to your child. Kids are often the first to mention school concerns. Take your child's feelings to heart, and use intuition and common sense to guide your actions. You might ask yourself, "Do my child's worries make sense to me?" "Has my child raised this concern more than once?" "Is it important to step in now?"
- Listen to the teacher. There are two or more sides to every story. It's valuable to keep an open mind and reserve judgment until all the facts (and opinions) are in.
- Stay positive. If you don't like a teacher, working together can be a challenge. Focus on your shared goal: a successful classroom experience for your child. By maintaining a calm, respectful attitude, you'll be the best advocate for your student.
- Ask for help. Sometimes, despite your hard work, a problem persists. Consider meeting with the guidance counselor or principal for help. Be confident that together, you'll find a solution.

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Discipline

Discipline is an opportunity to teach your child how to behave

Some parents think that the word discipline means something negative. But actually, discipline is much more than just the times you say no or punish your child.

In fact, the word discipline comes from the Latin word that means "student" or "pupil." Experts say parents will be much more effective if they think about discipline as a way of teaching their children to behave in appropriate ways.

And one of the best ways to do that is by rewarding kids who are doing something right. Suppose you are working at your computer. You see your child is sitting quietly at the kitchen table working on his book report. So take a short break. Say, "I am just so happy you started working on your book report without a reminder from me. And you gave me a little extra time to finish what I was working on. Now we can spend some time doing something together."

Then spend five or 10 minutes playing together, reading or doing something your child enjoys. Kids love getting undivided attention from a parent.

Spend a few minutes with a child who is behaving well. Otherwise, you'll spend much more time with a child who is misbehaving!

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**Click here to view the
February EL Activity Calendar**

Parents still make the difference!

Middle School - February 2010

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After School

Make sure your child's schedule isn't overbooked

Extracurricular activities can be great fun for your preteen. But don't forget that they're just that: extras. Your preteen's primary focus should be on school. So it's vital that his after-school activities not interfere with his performance in class.

To make sure your preteen's schedule isn't overbooked:

- Keep an eye on his grades. Does your preteen start bringing home lower marks once basketball season starts?
- Pay attention to homework habits. Is your preteen's before-dinner study routine suddenly stretching to bedtime? It could be a sign that he's over-scheduled. If that's the case, it may be time to drop an activity.
- Watch his mood. Is your easy-going preteen now stressed or irritable? Does he wake up exhausted or collapse into bed at night? He likely has too much on his plate.

Remember: After-school activities should enhance your preteen's education--not interfere with it. If he's doing too much, insist that he scale back on his activities, at least for a while.

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Making Decisions

Teach your preteen to research options before making decisions

Before your child can make a good decision about an important question, he should do some research. Then he can act. Guide your child to:

- Get the facts. If he is asked to look after a neighbor's dog for the weekend, he should find out exactly what he needs to do. How often should he feed the dog? What times? Should he walk the dog? How often?
- Consider conflicts. Your child has to study this weekend. He is also invited to a friend's party. Can he do both and still care for the dog?

- Think about the feelings of those involved. Say that the dog needs to be let out at 8:30 p.m. and the party starts at 7:30. If he misses the party will his friend be upset? If he turns down the job, will the neighbor ask another person to care for the dog in the future?
- Come up with alternatives. Perhaps your child can explain to his friend that he really would like to have steady work caring for the dog. Maybe your child and his friend can do something together next weekend instead.
- Realize that decisions are not always perfect. If your child decides to miss the party and care for the dog, he is giving up fun with friends. But he is gaining a chance to look after the dog when his neighbor travels. Sometimes good decisions require a small sacrifice to achieve a long-term benefit.

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Discipline

Avoid shouting matches with tone of voice, choice of words

Your child is now at a stage where you need to discipline more carefully. Discipline is essential. But your child is more likely to push back at discipline methods she finds too harsh and controlling. The point of discipline can quickly become lost as she uses the opportunity to pick a fight.

You may not be able to avoid this all the time. But you can keep the upper hand while still treating your child with respect if you:

- Lower your voice. Be calm and in control when speaking to your child.
- Use fewer words. Kids usually tune out at the first sign of a parental lecture. So instead of launching into another rant about your child's messy room, point to the clothes on the floor, and firmly say, "Katie, pick up your clothes. Now, please."
- State the obvious. "The dog keeps standing by her empty bowl. She looks pretty hungry." Not: "You forgot to feed her again. Can't you remember anything?"

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Ready to Learn

Inspire your middle schooler with a bit of guidance, love

Want to send your preteen to school ready and eager to learn each day? Let him know that you've got his back! In other words, make sure he feels loved and supported at home.

According to research, kids who enjoy strong relationships with adults:

- Feel safer and have a sunnier outlook than kids who don't.
- Are less likely than other kids to cheat on a test.
- Feel healthier and happier than other kids.
- Believe they'll succeed in the future.
- Are nine times likelier than their peers to earn straight A's in school.

What's the best way to show your preteen your love? There are too many ways to count. Still, when asked in a survey, students said they'd like their parents to:

- Really listen when they have something to say.
- Stop comparing them to siblings or peers.
- Be good role models.
- Spend more time together just having fun as a family.
- Avoid lecturing about every mistake.
- Treat them with respect.
- Encourage them to do well in school and elsewhere.
- Set reasonable rules and limits.
- Notice when they do things right.
- Offer guidance.
- Take an interest in schoolwork.
- Meet their teachers and learn about their classes.

Being there for your preteen and showing him how much he means to you will put him on the road to success in school--and in life.

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